

All
Hands

HERALD

January 2000

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICES • STOW, MASSACHUSETTS

**Code Compliance
& Enforcement**

Fire Investigation Unit

**Massachusetts
Firefighting Academy**

Public Education

CPSC Recalls



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About the *All Hands Herald*

The *All Hands Herald* is published quarterly by the Department of Fire Services in January, April, July and October. The newsletter is meant to incorporate the traditional fire service meaning- all hands working to extinguish the fire. In the case of our newsletter, all hands includes the DFS staff providing each of you with information, training and assistance in dealing with the fire service issues which confront all levels of the fire service.

We hope that you enjoy our new look and feel and we encourage you to let us know how you like the All Hands Herald and what we can do to make it even more useful to you – our dedicated fire service members and customers. If you have suggestions, ideas, questions or want to make a contribution to the All Hands Herald, contact Jennifer Mieth at 978-567- 3381 or Donna Nelson at 978-567-3149. Jennifer.Mieth@state.ma.us or Donna.Nelson@dfs.state.ma.us

Sue Peltier and Barry Hyvarinen are the talented contributing photographers; Judy O'Brien is the keen-eyed copy editor; and Scott Dell'Arciprete is the graphic artist who pulls it all together. ♦



From the Fire Marshal



Photo by: Barry Hyvärinen

RIP Cigarette

We start 2008 with the implementation of the Fire-Safe Cigarette law here in Massachusetts. As of January 1, 2008 wholesalers and retailers can only sell cigarettes that meet the reduced ignition propensity standards set forth in the law, although they will be allowed time to sell off existing inventory. These re-designed cigarettes should not sustain ignition unless someone is continuing to draw air through it. There are special "speed bumps" in the paper that will keep it from burning if it is not being smoked. Smoking is the leading cause of fatal fires in Massachusetts and the nation. Since so many fatal fires are caused when someone falls asleep while smoking or when a cigarette is improperly discarded, we hope and expect that these cigarettes will help us further reduce the fire death toll in the Commonwealth.

Ring in the New Year in Sprinklered Nightclubs

As many revelers rang in the New Year in bars, nightclubs and discotheques in Massachusetts, they were safer from fire than ever before. Last November 15, 2007 was the deadline for certain bars and

nightclubs to complete the installation of sprinklers. While it is personally frustrating that not all installations were complete on that day, many more are well under way and will be completed well before we ring in another New Year. In many ways, installing sprinklers in nightclubs was the unfinished business of the Cocoanut Grove fire and 2007 was the 65th anniversary of that tragedy. The requirement to retrofit certain bars and nightclubs with sprinklers was part of the Massachusetts Fire Safety Act passed in 2004 as a result of the Station Nightclub fire in Rhode Island that killed and injured so many from Massachusetts.

Fallen Firefighters Memorial

I was extremely pleased to be State Fire Marshal at the September 9, 2007 dedication of the Fallen Firefighters Memorial at the State House. It was a pleasure to be joined by Governor Deval Patrick, Lt. Governor Tim Murray, Senate President Therese Murray, Speaker of the House Sal DiMasi, former Governors Swift and Cellucci, the leaders of the major fire service organizations and so many brave firefighters. The Memorial Committee worked hard for several years to raise the money, design and build this fitting testament to the men and women of the fire service. It will stand tall to honor Massachusetts' firefighters - our brave unsung heroes. It will celebrate those who made the ultimate sacrifice as well as those who continue to protect the citizens of the Commonwealth.

Fire Officer Training

The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy has been strengthening its fire officer training by redesigning the Fire Officer I and II courses and seeing that they prepare fire officers for the training in the re-designed Chief Fire Officer (CFO) course.

Fire Standard Compliant Cigarettes Now the Law

On January 1, 2008 the *fire safe cigarette law* took effect in Massachusetts and Maine. This summer it will take effect in neighboring Connecticut and Rhode Island. This law is already in effect in 21 states including neighboring New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont.

The new law, codified as M.G.L. c. 64C, § 2A-2F, requires that effective January 1, 2008, all cigarettes sold or offered for sale in Massachusetts, shall meet the same testing criteria for fire standard compliant cigarettes as in New York State.

Smoking has been the leading cause of fatal fires in Massachusetts since World War II according to available records. It is also the leading cause of fatal fires nationally. In 2006, 32% of residential fire deaths in Massachusetts were due to smoking. The new law, when fully realized,

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Major Milestone in Fire Safety

A major milestone in fire safety in the Commonwealth was reached on November 15, 2007. It was the deadline for sprinklers to be installed in certain existing nightclubs, dance halls, discotheques and bars as required by MGL c. 148, s. 26G1/2 passed as part of the Massachusetts Fire Safety Act of 2004. While exact numbers are not available at the state level, reports from local fire chiefs indicate that many establishments that serve the public are safer today than they were three years ago because they have been retrofitted with sprinklers.

The Department of Fire Services provided heads of fire departments

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Marshal

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For the first time the CFO course prepares students to take the certification exams for Fire Officer III and Fire Officer IV. The CFO course is offered jointly by the MFA and the University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute for Governmental Services. In addition, we are offering an exciting series of one-day training seminars as part of the 2007-2008 Senior Fire Officer Forum.

DFS Construction

The long awaited construction project at the Department of Fire Services is finally visible to our staff, students and neighbors. The Department of Fire Services (DFS) was created in 1996 and staff from different agencies that became part of DFS has been housed in temporary buildings whose useful life has expired. During the transition period, students and some staff will be housed in new temporary buildings in our front parking lot and the old temporary buildings will be razed so the new buildings can start to take shape. ♦

SAFER Cigarettes Now the Law in Massachusetts

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will help to reduce the number of fatal fires and fire deaths.

The Executive Office of Public Safety and Security has promulgated regulations and designated the Department of Fire Services (DFS) as the implementation agency. The final regulations became effective December 14, 2007 upon publication in the Massachusetts Register. An unofficial copy of the regulations can be found on our web site and the official copy may be obtained from the Massachusetts Secretary of State at the State House Book Store.

DFS has notified manufacturers of the procedures to submit their brands for certification to the new *Massachusetts Fire Standard Compliant Certification Program*. It is anticipated that there will be over 750 brands submitted for certification. Staff will be hired to manage the certification, enforcement, testing and oversight process. The certification approval is valid for three years. There is a fee of \$3,000 per brand sold in the state to cover the

cost of making sure the cigarettes sold in the state meet these new requirements. Enforcement is considered a critical component of the law's effectiveness and the fees cover independent laboratory testing and purchasing of cigarettes.

Wholesalers and retailers will be able to sell existing inventory that already had the Massachusetts tax stamp affixed prior to January 1, 2008. Such inventories are not to exceed the previous year's inventory to avoid any dumping onto the Massachusetts market. This means that there will be some non-compliant cigarettes on the shelves for a while. However, on the positive side, many compliant cigarettes are reportedly already on some store shelves.

All cigarette packages will have to be marked according to standards that indicate they meet the fire standard compliant (FSC) law. People should look for these marks when purchasing cigarettes. ♦

Information on "STAPH" Type Infections

On October 26, 2007, State Fire Marshal Coan and President of the Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts Ken Willette sent this advisory to local fire departments on a "STAPH" type infection called M.R.S.A. or "Mersa".

M.R.S.A., Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus, has become a topic of discussion with the Department of Public Health and the CDC as a result of its becoming more resistant to antibiotics. MRSA is a skin infection, which may present with pimples, rashes, or pus filled boils, which can be warm, painful, or swollen. Occasionally, MRSA can cause more serious problems such as wound infections, bloodstream infections, and pneumonia. This infection has been typically confined

to hospitals and nursing homes, however, it is now being identified among patients with no direct connection to hospitals or long-term healthcare and is now making its way into the school systems. Students who have direct contact with an infected student, share equipment, or share towels are more likely to contract the disease.

- A student at the Berkshire Arts and Technology Charter School in Adams was diagnosed with a staph infection. Officials say the school was cleaned with a bleach and water solution.
- In Dartmouth, at least three high school students have been treated for the staph infection since the start of school. Officials told the cleaning staff to pay special attention to common areas of contact.

- School officials in Salem and Winthrop also have reported cases. A high school student has been diagnosed in Winthrop. Superintendent Steven Jenkins said there's no evidence the student got the infection at school, but the building will be sanitized.

Source: Boston Globe Article: October 19, 2007

The best way to prevent the spread of "Mersa" is through education. We encourage your EMS Officer, Infection Control Officer, or Training Officer to review your department's B.S.I. (Body Substance Isolation) protocol with your staff. To reduce the spread of "Mersa", we encourage: mandatory use of gloves on all

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FIRE INVESTIGATION UNIT

Arrests Made in Erving Paper Mill Fire

Two Clinton men, John Rousseau and Michael Dreslinski, both 28, were arrested in August for setting the vacant Usher Paper Mill on Route 2 in Erving on fire on July 30, 2007. They have each been charged with two counts of burning a building and one count of malicious destruction of property over \$250 for the Erving mill fire. They are also charged with setting fire to a railroad bungalow in the town of Florida, MA and for stealing railroad radio equipment on July 30, 2007.

A Boston and Maine Railroad lock similar to the one taken from the Florida railroad bungalow was found in Rousseau's home, along with prison keys, a home's electrical box, and fire and police paraphernalia.

Police used a global positioning system to track Mr. Dreslinski's vehicle the night of the Usher Paper mill fire. The vehicle was at the fire site just before the fire erupted and later that same night at the railroad bungalow and stopped twice at a Greenfield Dunkin' Donuts in between. The vehicle was also in the vicinity of an August 13 barn fire in Holden and the site of the former *Mary Had A Little Lamb* house in Sterling the night it burned down. This case has not been adjudicated and all defendants are presumed innocent.

They were arrested by state police assigned to the Attorney General's Office, state police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal's west and central teams, and Clinton Police officers.

Walpole Fire bombings Solved By DNA Evidence

Some things are worth waiting for! DNA evidence from a series of fire bombings in Walpole on the night of March 25, 2005, recently led to an arrest in the case. Around 2:00 a.m., Walpole fire and police were summoned to Town Hall on School Street and found broken windows on the first floor and a small fire inside

the town accountant's office. State police from the south team assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal joined the investigation. They determined the fire started when someone threw a Molotov cocktail made of a Budweiser beer bottle and an ignitable liquid through the window. While they were wrapping up, an alarm sounded at Betor's Pharmacy, about a half-mile away. Walpole detectives found the rear glass door had been smashed, prescription drugs stolen, and outside the door was a pillowcase and a cardboard Budweiser six-pack carton with four Budweiser bottles filled with what turned out to be an ignitable liquid and a pack of matches.

As they were wrapping up the two scenes, a call came from employees opening Dan's Auto located about a half-mile in the opposite direction from Town Hall. They found their plate glass window was smashed and a Budweiser bottle had shattered on the concrete floor spewing an ignitable liquid. Outside, was a burned piece of paper that may have been the wick for the Molotov cocktail.

In the end, the entire six-pack was recovered from the three scenes.

Investigators believe that the two fire bombings were intended to be diversions from the pharmacy robbery.

The information developed during the course of the investigation that led them to interview a suspect, but they were not able to develop enough evidence to charge the man until two years later when his DNA was linked to DNA found on the pillowcase through a CODIS search. CODIS is the Combined DNA Index System Authority for the Commonwealth. The man has been charged with burning a building; three counts of possession of an infernal machine (Molotov cocktail); three counts of malicious destruction; larceny of prescription drugs; breaking and entering in the nighttime with the intent to commit a felony; and two counts of attempted arson. This case has not been adjudicated and all defendants are presumed innocent.

These incidents were investigated by the Walpole Fire Department, Walpole Police Department, state police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal's south team and the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

6 Teens Charged Exploding Molotov Cocktails at Sri Lakshmi Temple

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan, Ashland Police Chief Scott C. Rohmer and Ashland Fire Chief William Kee announced that six Framingham teenagers were charged with throwing Molotov cocktails in the parking lot of the Sri Lakshmi Temple. The incidents took place the nights of July 7-8, 2007 and August 4-5, 2007. Over \$12,000 worth of damage was done to two light poles in the parking lot of the temple located at 117 Waverly Street, Ashland.

Four teenagers were arrested and two more were summonsed to court to face charges of possession of a Molotov cocktail, malicious destruction of property over \$250, causing an explosion, and conspiracy. All six of the teenagers are 16-years old and residents of Framingham.

The Sri Lakshmi Temple is also known as the New England Hindu Temple because it is the only Hindu temple in the region. People come from as far away as New Jersey to worship here.

Chief Rohmer said, "Investigators do not believe these incidents were hate crimes, but until the perpetrators were caught, the motive could not be known. The members of the temple, and the community as a whole, experienced significant fear and anxiety not knowing whether or not this was a hate crime."

These incidents were jointly investigated by the Ashland Fire Department, the Ashland Police Department and state police in the Fire and Explosion Investigation Section of

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the Office of the State Fire Marshal's central Team. The Hopkinton Fire Department assisted with the investigation.

Greenfield Arson Set by Four Teens

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan, Greenfield Fire Chief Mark H. Cogswell and Greenfield Police Chief David F. Guilbault credited their fire investigation team with solving the July 8 arson fire in a Laurel Street warehouse. Four teenagers, three boys and one girl, ages 14-15, were summonsed into Greenfield Juvenile Court and charged with setting the fire in the abandoned warehouse.

Investigators believe the fire started in the former office area. The bank was in the process of foreclosing on the property.

The fire was jointly investigated by members of the Greenfield Fire Department, Greenfield Police Department and state police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal's west team.

In 2005, 374 vacant building fires were reported to the Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS) causing one civilian death, seven civilian injuries, 76 firefighter injuries and an estimated \$59.2 million in damages.

Arrest Made in Everett Fire

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan, Everett Fire Chief David Butler and Everett Police Chief Steven Mazzie said an arrest has been made in the September 17, 2007 fire at 326 Main Street, Everett. Brandon Kwedor, age 20, of Methuen, has been arrested and charged with arson of a dwelling and causing injury to a firefighter.

Citing data from the Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System Coan said, "A firefighter is twice as likely to be injured at an intentionally set structure fire than fighting a structure fire generally."

Chief Butler said, "There is no connection between this fire and any other fire in Everett."

Chief Mazzie said, "We want the citizens of Everett to know that this incident had nothing to do with immigration status as was reported".

The building housed two commercial properties with ten apartments above. At least 35 people were reportedly displaced by the fire that caused an estimated \$500,000 in property damage. All the building's occupants escaped but one firefighter was injured. Chief Butler said, "We believe the fact that the smoke alarms were working prevented injuries and deaths to the occupants by giving them time to escape this early morning blaze".

The fire was jointly investigated by the Everett Fire Department, Everett Police Department, state police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal's north team and the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

Bourne Restaurant Fire Electrical

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Acting Bourne Fire Chief David Kingsbury announced that the cause of the October 20, 2007 fire at the Mezza Luna restaurant at 253 Main Street in Bourne was electrical.

The fire started at 4:30 p.m. when a wall socket behind the bar overheated due to an electrical fault. The fire traveled inside the walls through the balloon frame construction and erupted in the attic. The fire caused an estimated \$1.5 million in property damage and three firefighters received minor injuries.

Local investigators from the Bourne Fire Department and the Bourne Police Department and state police

assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal's south team jointly investigated the fire. The Bourne wiring inspector provided technical assistance to the investigation.

According to the Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS), in 2006, there were 263 fires in restaurants and other eating and drinking establishments, causing one civilian injury, 12 firefighter injuries, and an estimated dollar loss of \$3.8 million.

Stoneham Fire Electrical

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan, Stoneham Fire Chief Joseph W. Rolli, and Police Chief Richard Bongiorno announced their joint investigation into the October 22, 2007 fire at 401 Main Street has determined the most probable cause was electrical.

Investigators determined that the fire started inside a bedroom wall in a rear apartment at 401 Main Street and was caused by an electrical failure. The fire spread to adjoining buildings including the Stoneham Theatre.

Coan said, "The fire department did such an excellent job preventing the spread of the fire that a production at the Stoneham Theatre was able to go

on the next day as scheduled."

Chief Rolli said, "I want to commend the work of the Stoneham firefighters and thank our neighboring towns for providing mutual aid during this four alarm fire." He added, "The investigation team worked together seamlessly and were able to quickly identify the origin and cause of the fire."

The fire was jointly investigated by members of the Stoneham Fire De-

“ The fire department did such an excellent job preventing the spread of the fire that a production at the Stoneham Theatre will go on tomorrow as scheduled. ”

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partment, Stoneham Police Department and state police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal's north team.

Fall River Domestic Violence

While returning from a paid detail on Friday October 26, 2007 at 0418 hrs, a state police trooper from the Fire Investigation Unit's South Team and his accelerant-detection canine monitored a "bolo" (be on the look out) from the Fall River Police Department for a domestic custodial kidnapping and a residential structure fire. The person's vehicle was registered to an address in the town of Norton. The south team trooper joined Norton police and staked out the address. In the meantime a state police cruiser spotted the wanted vehicle on Rt. 95 north, stopped the car and arrested the suspect. A second South Team fire investigator went to the scene of the fire, a residential structure, at 18B Wartupper Heights in Fall River. Two small children had been rescued and resuscitated by

Fall River firefighters. A 3-year old boy was transported to a Providence hospital for burns and a 6-year old girl was transported to a Boston hospital for treatment. The suspect was interviewed by South Team troopers and detectives from the Fall River Police Department. He confessed to removing a 6-month old infant from the scene and leaving two other children and an adult babysitter inside the structure after he set it on fire. It appears that he removed his own child and left his child's half-brother and half-sister trapped by the fire and warned the babysitter on his way out about the fire upstairs. The second trooper from the South Team conducted the origin and cause investigation of the fire scene and confirmed it was arson. The vehicle was towed and searched the next day after a warrant was obtained. The suspect is charged with three counts of attempted murder, burning a dwelling, and custodial kidnapping. This was a fine example of heads up police work with the Fall River Fire Department, Fall River Police Department, the Norton Police Department,

Massachusetts State Police from H-3 and state police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal working quickly and effectively to arrest a man who nearly killed two children by fire.

Fire at Java Joe's in Milton Electrical

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Milton Fire Chief Malcolm R. Larson announced their joint investigation into the October 8, 2007 fire at 599 Adams Street in Milton has determined the most probable cause was electrical. The occupant was a popular coffee shop called Java Joe's.

The fire was jointly investigated by members of the Milton Fire Department, Milton Police Department and state police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal's south team. Assistance was received from the Milton electrical inspector. ♦

Uxbridge Mill Fire Caused By Welding

On November 20, 2007, State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan, Uxbridge Fire Chief Peter Ostroskey and Uxbridge Police Chief Scott J. Freitas held a joint press conference moderated by Town Manager Jill Myers to announce the conclusion of their investigation into last summer's mill fire in Uxbridge. The most probable cause of the July 21, 2007 fire at the Bernat Mill in Uxbridge was welding.

The welding was being performed in an environment that did not meet the safety requirements of the fire and building codes, and for

which no permit had been obtained from the fire department. In addition,

This allowed the fire to quickly overwhelm the sprinkler system.



Photo by: WBZ - TV 4

tion, the part of the sprinkler system in the area of origin had been padlocked in the closed position without notification to the fire department.

The cause and origin of the fire was jointly investigated by members of the Uxbridge Fire Department, the Uxbridge Police Department, state police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal's central and west teams and the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Assistance was received from the State Police Air Wing, Accident Reconstruction Section Crime Scene Services and the Crime Lab. ♦

The following are excerpts from press releases issued by the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) regarding products recalled for fire or burn hazards. Consumers should immediately stop using any of these products and contact the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission or the manufacturer for instructions on how to proceed. The web address is: www.cpsc.gov

AC ADAPTERS

8/23/07 07-287

AC Adapters Sold w/ Network Hard Disk Drives

I-O Data Devices USA Inc.

The AC adapters can overheat or melt, posing a burn hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07287.html>

10/9/2007 08-015

Toshiba AC Adapters Sold with Portable DVD Players

Toshiba America Consumer Products LLC

The AC adapters can fail, causing the DVD player to overheat, posing a burn hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml08/08015.html>

11/8/2007 08-078

Yamaha AC Power Adaptors

Yamaha Corp.

The housing can separate, posing an electric shock hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml08/08078.html>

AIR PURIFIERS

10/5/2007 08-012

IonizAir Table Top Air Purifiers

Leaven Enterprise Co.

The air purifier's cartridge can overheat, posing a risk of fire.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml08/08012.html>

BACKPACK BLOWERS

8/24/07 07-289

Shindaiwa Backpack Blowers

Shindaiwa Inc.

The muffler's outer shell can melt allowing gas to exit from the bottom or back side of the muffler, & may damage the fuel tank.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07289.html>



BATTERIES

6/19/07 07-219

Gateway Lithium Ion Battery Packs

Gateway Inc.

The battery packs can overheat, posing a fire hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07219.html>

7/17/07 07-237

Panasonic CR123A Industrial Lithium batteries packaged w/ Xenon Aluminum Flashlights

Sportsman's Warehouse

Counterfeit batteries can overheat & rupture.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07237.html>

8/9/07 07-267

Sony Lithium-Ion Notebook Computer Batteries in Toshiba Notebook Computers.

Sony Energy Devices Corp.

The lithium-ion batteries can overheat posing a fire hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07267.html>

BOOTS

8/28/07 07-291

Logger Boots

Wolverine World Wide Inc.

The steel-toed boots could be incorrectly labeled as resistant to electrical current, posing a shock hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07291.html>

CAMERAS

11/21/2007 08-098

Visual Presenters (sold as Image Presentation Cameras by Epson)

ELMO Usa Corp.

Fluorescent top lights in the presenter can overheat.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml08/08098.html>

CANDLES

8/15/07 07-274

Gold Pine Cone Candle Sets

Giftco Inc.

The candles' exterior paint & coating can ignite & catch fire.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07274.html>

9/6/07 07-304

Avant Yarde' Decorative Glaze Outdoor Candles

The Hayes Company, Inc.

The candle's wax can catch fire causing a high flame, posing a burn & fire hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07304.html>

11/15/2007 08-083

Birch Bark Wrapped Candles

Gate Five Group LLC dba Roost

The bark wrapping can ignite when the candle burns down.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml08/08083.html>

10/9/2007 08-014

Sequin Glitter Candles

Christmas Tree Shops Inc.

The candle's exterior glitter coating can ignite.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml08/08014.html>



CPSC Recalls & Releases

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CIRCUIT BREAKERS

10/30/2007 08-054

Counterfeit "Square D" Circuit Breakers

Connecticut Electric & Switch Mfg. Co.

These breakers labeled "Square D" are counterfeit & could fail to trip when they are required to.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml08/08054.html>

DVD/CD/MP3 PLAYERS

11/8/2007 08-076

Portable DVD/CD/MP3 Players

Coby Electronics Corp.

The players can overheat.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml08/08076.html>

COOKTOPS

6/7/07 07-207

Thermador Brand Ceramic Cooktops

BSH Home Appliance Corp.

The cooktop can come on by itself when switched off, creating a burn hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07207.html>

CULINARY TORCHES

7/11/07 07-235

BonJour Professional Culinary Torches

Meyer Corp.

Butane fuel can leak from the torch assembly near the nozzle.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07235.html>

DISHWASHERS

6/14/07 07-213

Asko DW95 Model Series Dishwashers

Asko Cylinda AB

An electrical component in the dishwasher can overheat, posing a fire hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07213.html>

ELECTRIC THROWS

8/15/07 07-276

Classic Beauty Rest Electric

Warming Throws

International Home Fashions Inc.

Bunching, folding or tucking of these electric throws can cause them to overheat, resulting in smoldering, melting, fire & burn hazards.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07276.html>

EMERGENCY TOOL KIT

8/30/07 07-297

Emergency Tool Kit

B&F System, Inc.

Booster cables in the recalled kits can have undersized wiring & inadequate connections, posing a fire & shock hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07297.html>

FIREPITS

11/27/2007 08-101

Grand Gourmet Firepits

Meijer Inc.

The legs can bend or snap off during use, causing the firepit to tip over & in turn the fire can escape.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml08/08101.html>

FIRE SPRINKLERS

6/12/07 07-209

Globe Model J Series Dry Fire Sprinklers

Globe Fire Sprinkler Corp.

The sprinkler heads can deteriorate over time and fail to operate in a fire.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07209.html>

GAS VALVES

10/2/2007 08-003

Gas Valves Used in Decorative Fireplaces & Stoves

Honeywell International Inc.

The activation knob on the valve can be left in a position between Off & Pilot, which can cause the pilot gas to leak & accumulate prior to burner ignition.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml08/08003.html>

HEATERS

6/28/07 07-227

Lasko Ceramic Heaters

Lasko Products, Inc.

The heater's cord can overheat where it enters the base of the unit posing a fire hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07227.html>

8/30/07 07-296

Aloha Breeze' Portable Electric Heaters

Aloha Housewears, Inc.

The heater can overheat posing a fire hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07296.html>

8/30/07 07-298

Toe-Space Electric Heaters

Berko Electric (aka Marley Engineered Products)

If the fan stops working & the heater continues to run, the unit can overheat.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07298.html>

HUMIDIFIERS

11/6/2007 08064

Warm Mist Carefree Humidifier

Hunter Fan Co.

Water used in the humidifier can leak into the unit's electrical compartment.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml08/08064.html>

ICED TEA MAKERS

9/13/07 07-306

IT400 Iced Tea Makers

Back to Basics Products LLC.

The iced tea maker's components can fail, posing a fire hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07306.html>

LAWN MOWERS

11/8/2007 08-077

Honda Lawn Mowers:

HRX217KHXA & HRX217KHMA

CONTINUED ON **PAGE 8**

CPSC Recalls & Releases

Continued from Page 7

American Honda Motor Corp.

A crack can occur in the fuel tank causing fuel to leak and possibly ignite.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prereel/prhtml08/08077.html>

LIGHTS

8/3/07 07-258

E Lights

Plan 9 Inc.

The circuit board in the lights can overheat, posing a fire hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prereel/prhtml07/07258.html>

10/9/2007 08-016

Lithonia Lighting Nickel End Wrap Fluorescent Ceiling Light Fixtures

Suzhou Powerhouse Co. Ltd.

A wire inside the light fixture could be loose, posing an electrical shock hazard

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prereel/prhtml08/08016.html>

11/21/2007 08-089

Metaflux Fluorescent Shop Lights

Cooper Lighting Inc.

When the 2 prongs on the plug's electrical cord are touched simultaneously while the lamps are installed, the light can pose an electric shock hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prereel/prhtml08/08089.html>

NAVIGATION SYSTEM

8/16/07 07-278

N.I.C.E. P200 Navigation & Entertainment Systems

Clarion Corp. of America

The lithium-ion batteries can melt or overheat posing a burn or fire hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prereel/prhtml07/07278.html>

OVENS

6/29/07 07-228

Thermador Brand Built-In Ovens

BSH Home Appliance Corp.

The oven can have gaps in the insulation where overheating can occur & when used in the self-cleaning mode it can cause nearby cabinets to overheat.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prereel/prhtml07/07228.html>

PRINTERS

10/30/2007 08-052

C9600 Series Digital Color Printer

Oki Data Corp.

The printers have an internal electrical problem.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prereel/prhtml08/08052.html>

RC AIRPLANES

7/24/07 07-250

Sky Rangers Park Flyer Radio Control Airplanes

Estes-Cox Corp.

The airplanes are launched by hand & can explode near the person's head.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prereel/prhtml07/07250.html>

RUGS

10/12/2007 8-025

Alyssa' Shag Rugs

J. C. Penny

The rugs fail to meet federal standards for flammability & could ignite.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prereel/prhtml08/08025.html>

SNOWMOBILES

11/6/2007 08-516

Polaris Snowmobiles

Polaris Industries

The fuel tank filler neck can crack & separate allowing fuel or fuel vapors to leak from the fuel tank.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prereel/prhtml08/08516.html>

SPRAY PAINT

8/3/07 07-259

Hi-Heat Aerosol Coating Cans

Sherwin-Williams Co.

The aerosol cans can over-pressurize & explode.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prereel/prhtml07/07259.html>

TERMINAL AIR CONDITIONERS

11/7/2007 08-073

Packaged Terminal Air Conditioners (PTAC) & Heat Pumps (PTHP)

Carrier Corp.

An electric heater in the unit can break, posing a fire hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prereel/prhtml08/08073.html>

TREADMILLS

10/23/2007 08-041

Cybex or Trotter Treadmills

Cybex International, Inc.

During repairs associated with the 10/8/03 recall, wire nuts were installed improperly, causing the treadmills to overheat.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prereel/prhtml08/08041.html>

CPSC Presents Award to DFS Staff

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) presented the *CPSC State and Local Award* to Jake Nunnemacher, Fire Protection Engineer, in the Office of the State Fire Marshal on August 6, 2007. He was nominated for this award by the CPSC investigators assigned to New England who work closely with him, for extensive



left to right S. Coan, T. Rodrique, J. Nunnemacher, J. Twitchell, J. Hammond

work that has lead to several product recalls for fire risks. One example is the Sequin Glitter Candles mentioned in this issue of the All Hands Herald. It was brought to DFS' attention by Chief Silva of Middleboro. ♦

MASSACHUSETTS FIREFIGHTING ACADEMY

Rescue Technician: Rope Rescue Certification

Beginning this past fall, the Mass. Firefighting Academy offered, for the first time, certification in *Rescue Technician: Rope Rescue* in accordance with NFPA 1006. The Technical Rescue office has been working closely with the Certification office to develop this certification exam both written and practical.

The core requirements for the exam are stipulated in *chapter 5 of NFPA 1006 Rescue Technician: Rope Rescue 2003 ed.* Currently, the Mass. Firefighting Academy's two rope programs, *Rope Rescue: Operational Level* and *Rope Rescue: Technician*

Level are one of the means to obtain these core requirements. These programs also develop the practical skills to take the rope rescue certification exam practical. If a candidate has the core requirements of training and documentation from another state, they can submit for consideration to the Certification office at the

Mass. Firefighting Academy.

This Pro Board certification will examine each candidate's knowledge, skills and abilities to safely deal with rescuing a victim in a precarious position using ropes as the means

to get them down or up safely. The student will be challenged in all aspects of rescue techniques: rope rescue, constructing anchors, mechanical advantage systems, and belay devices.

For questions about the rescue technician: rope rescue certification exam please call the Certification office at (978) 567-3223. For

questions about the core requirements or Technical Rescue classes, please contact the Technical Rescue office at (978) 567-3214 or check the DFS website at <http://www.mass.gov/dfs/mfa/index.shtm> for scheduled classes and registration information. ♦



Photo by: Barry Hyvarinen

Propane Emergency Response Plan Revised for New England

The Propane Gas Association of New England has revised their Propane Emergency Response Plan/Guide for New England. This guide is available for download at www.pgane.org to provide assistance to federal, state, and local emergency response groups for a

quick and effective response to propane related incidents. Once on the website, select the Safety & Training link, which will then give you several selections...click on the E.R. Plan (it might ask you to download an Adobe program if you do not have it...this is free of charge and only takes a couple of seconds to download). ♦

HazMat Training Group Presents at International Conference

The Hazardous Materials Training group presented at the International Association of Fire Chiefs' (IAFC) International Hazardous Materials Response Teams Conference May 31 through June 3 2007 at Hunt Valley Maryland. The IAFC conference is recognized worldwide as the premier conference for the hazardous materials response teams.

Assistant Coordinators Bob Zalewski and Gordon Diotalevi, Program Coordinator Marty Greene, and Hazardous Materials Response Director David Ladd were all in attendance.

DFS staff was invited to share with other first responders from all over the world how the Commonwealth has prepared to respond in a unified fashion to hazardous materials incidents and incidents potentially involving weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

1980 Somerville HazMat Incident

A brief history of the tragic hazardous materials incident in Somerville, MA was reviewed. At 9:05 a.m. on April 3, 1980, a tank car was being pulled through the railroad switching station in Somerville. Inside were 13,000 gallons of phosphorus trichloride. A 38-car freight train creeping along a track sideswiped the tank car, ripping a gash in the half-inch steel skin of the tank car, three inches wide by 20 inches long. The only prior incident known was a 200-gallon spill, which left little information to assist the Somerville Fire Department.

The immediate resource available at the time was the 1978 version of the *Emergency Response Guidebook* (ERG), which recommended:

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HazMat Training Group Presents at Conference

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- Apply water spray
- The ERG (1978) recommended using a fine mist to reduce the vapor, but explicitly precluded direct water spray on a spill.
- It also called for a dike to contain the spill until "removal apparatus" was available.

At 9:30 a.m., officials ordered evacuation of adjacent areas and alerted Boston and Cambridge officials about the growing toxic gas cloud.

At 10 a.m. area hospitals began implementing disaster plans.

At 11 a.m. it was determined that the cloud posed a threat to commuters and transportation and police began evacuating people as far away as Route 93 and the Mystic-Tobin Bridge.

Shortly after 1 p.m. the leak was contained. About 9,500 gallons had spilled. The wind shifted, and evacuation orders expanded.

By 11:30 p.m. the pit was filled with sand and soda ash, while environmental engineers monitored how much, if any, of the chemical was leeching through soil. By 1 a.m., the estimated 17,000 evacuated people were allowed to return to their homes.

In the end, more than 600 victims were seen at 10 area hospitals. At Somerville Hospital, 457 patients exposed to fumes showed a 20 percent liver abnormality rate, suggesting potential liver damage. The incident lasted less than 24 hours, but cost well over \$500,000 (1981) to Somerville and at least that much to other participating agencies.

In 1981 the fire service in MA sought to find a solution. The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (which pre dates the state Department of Fire Services) with the help of the Massachusetts Fire Chiefs' Association & Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts, developed what we know now as the Hazardous Materials Response Division within DFS.

DFS and the Hazardous Materials Response Division was one of the first "regional" teams in the nation. Further, Massachusetts is truly a regional hazmat team.

While there are many "regional" teams, Massachusetts is one of the few that maintains statewide response to both large and small incidents.

The unified approach to response in Massachusetts grew out of the regional hazmat response program. The many different agencies that

have sought training post 9/11 have all had programs derived out of the hazardous materials technician class that the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy offers. Clearly, it is an example of the benefits of training using a multi-agency approach that has been noted by other states.

With the success of the regional hazmat response teams, other agencies in the state sought assistance from DFS. The foundations of training needs were from the existing Hazmat Technician class.

A standardized hazardous materials program for public safety agencies was established by the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy. Standard operating procedures have been created to provide standardized response techniques, team management, and safety of the team members. A "system approach" has been established for the response and mitigation of incidents through a unified command system.

Development of training for agencies such as the Massachusetts State Police Crime Scene Services and the Department of Public Health Chem/Bio groups (to name a few) were created with the same framework using a needs assessment:

- Objectives & goals;
- Needs based, mission specific;
- Most could not operate independently;
- Training needs determined before equipment needs.

The outcome was a common sense approach to response. The hazmat teams and other public safety agencies must respond to deal with the issues of today. With the baseline training of the hazardous materials technician course given to our firefighters, and the training given to other responding agencies, makes a perfect fit for the "Unified Approach" to training and response. ♦



1980 Somerville HazMat Incident

CODE COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT

Safe Neighborhood Chemical Initiative Finds Chemical Facilities Pose Little Risk to Nearby Residences

Task Force and Additional Targeted Inspections Recommended

On November 21, 2007, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and the state Department of Fire Services (DFS) have completed 41 on-site inspections as part of the Safe Neighborhood Chemical Initiative (SNCI), and preliminary results show that facilities, in general, pose little risk to surrounding neighborhoods. The pilot program was primarily a technical assistance effort that resulted in numerous recommendations to the inspected facilities to ensure their safe operation.

Preliminary recommendations from the SNCI inspections will include the formation of a task force lead by the Secretaries of Energy and Environmental Affairs and Public Safety and Security to address potential gaps in regulatory authority and oversight, public safety protocols and procedures, training, and communications. A second phase of SNCI is recommended in order to inspect facilities

that use toxic gases, such as anhydrous ammonia and chlorine.

The SNCI was initiated last spring to identify and correct potential industrial chemical hazards that may present an imminent threat to surrounding neighborhoods. The program was a result of the November 22, 2006 explosion at the site of paint and ink and dye manufacturers; the blast destroyed their Danversport facility along with numerous homes in the neighborhood.

"The Safe Neighborhood Chemical Initiative put a collaborative, multi-disciplinary team of chemical, fire and safety experts into these facilities looking for opportunities to provide technical assistance and reduce potential risks," said MassDEP Commissioner Laurie Burt. "This effort improved the environmental health and safety efforts at the facilities inspected, and reduced risk to the surrounding neighborhoods. Ultimately, this increases our ability to address similar concerns at facilities across the Commonwealth."

"This was an important first step that provided data and analysis for creating a comprehensive safety initiative the administration will present to the Legislature shortly," said State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan. "As we approach the one-year anniversary of the Danvers explosion, those horrific images are still fresh in my mind. It is paramount we prevent a similar tragedy."

The main scope of the joint inspection team was to discover and abate imminent hazards that these chemical facilities might pose on surrounding residential areas. The team found only two facilities that posed an imminent hazard and those facilities were ordered to take immediate action to address the hazards. Follow-up inspections are ongoing.

The team also found that flammable and hazardous materials are often stored in active work areas, rather than in separate storage areas where an accident involving these materials would be more contained.

As a result of the first phase of SNCI, the Energy and Environmental Affairs/Public Safety and Security task force recommended that six to eight experts and agency officials would be charged with presenting an action plan to Governor Patrick within 90 days. Among possible actions, the task force will consider are:

- A self-certification or third party certification program by which the facilities would report and certify permit status, chemicals used on-site, facility safety and risk reduction efforts, hazardous waste handling and disposal and other requirements. The program would initially target ink and dye manufacturers, electro-platers, and paint manufacturers, and it would be subject to agency audits and enforcement.
- Changes in facility licensing and permitting, as well as stor-

UST Program Inspected 6,238 Tanks, 2,333 Facilities By Federal Deadline

President Bush on August 8, 2005 signed Public Law 109-58, the Energy Policy Act of 2005 Title XV. Subtitle B of this Act (entitled the Underground Storage Tank Compliance Act of 2005) contains amendments to Subtitle I of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act-the original legislation that created the federal UST program. This new law significantly affects state and federal underground storage tank programs and will require major changes in them. Additionally, gas station owners and operators, as well as non-marketers who own or operate UST's, will be impacted by the changes

states and EPA make in their tank programs.

One of the first major provisions of this act was, all regulated underground storage tank sites in Mass not inspected by our office since 1998, had to be inspected by August 7, 2007. It was the responsibility of the State Fire Marshal Office Code Compliance & Enforcement Unit to have the 6,238 tanks, 2,333 facilities inspected by August 7, 2007.

Our unit is very happy to announce this goal was achieved before the deadline. ♦

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Updates to 527 CMRs

The Board of Fire Prevention Regulations has passed several changes to 527 CMR – the fire code.

Micro Blaster

The first is a modification to 527 CMR 13 to regulate a device called “Micro Blaster”. The modification was to the definition of a charged hydraulic device. The purpose was to capture devices that use both a hydraulic or gas as the means to promote the breaking of rock.

Fake Smoke Alarms

The second was promulgated on an emergency basis until the final promulgation takes place. It deals with an influx of “fake” fire protection devices that are becoming popular for use as video cameras. The more prominent use of “fake” devices is causing concern among fire officials. As a result a modification has been made to 527 CMR 1 to prohibit their use.

Commercial Cooking Operations

On August 29, 2007, two Boston firefighters lost their lives while battling a restaurant fire. While we await the final results of the Boston Fire Department investigation into the cause of this tragic fire, it might be helpful

to review some sections of the State Fire Code dealing with commercial cooking operations.

In 2006, the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations adopted an entirely new regulation (527 CMR) (11) Commercial Cooking Operations. The board incorporated by reference the 2004 edition of NFPA 96 “Standard for Ventilation Control and Fire Protection of Commercial Cooking Operations”. This standard provides for the minimum fire safety requirements for the design, installation, operation, and maintenance of all commercial cooking operations. Chapter 11 of this standard contains specific requirements for equipment use and maintenance of equipment.

527 CMR 23.07(6) requires fire suppression system companies finding a suppression system in non-compliance with the manufacturers specification or listing to notify the head of the fire department, and the Marshal in writing within 48 hours.

If you have any questions, please contact the Code Compliance & Enforcement Unit at 978-567-3375 or in western Massachusetts at 413-587-3181. ♦

Safe Neighborhood Chemical Initiative

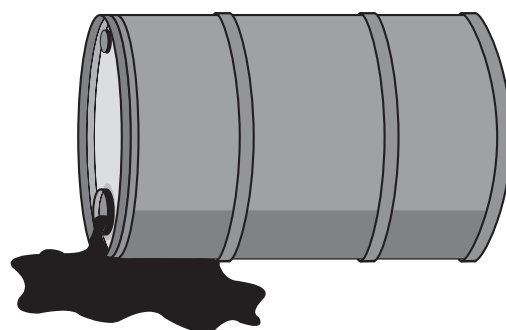
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age and use, and requirements for modeling to determine public safety and environmental impacts from potential incidents.

- Training workshops for local, regional and state officials to review lessons learned during the SNCI inspections. The workshops, which could begin in 2008, would increase the capacity of local fire, building and health officials to assist in preventing, preparing for and responding to incidents stemming from improper chemical management.

Another recommendation is for MassDEP, DFS and local authorities to immediately begin a second phase of SNCI that will target drinking water and wastewater treatment facilities that use chlorine gas, to ensure that those facilities are operating safely.

MassDEP and DFS conducted the



41 inspections with the assistance of local fire departments, the Commonwealth Fusion Center, the state Department of Occupational Safety, and a contracted safety and health consultant. Associated Industries of Massachusetts and the Massachusetts Chemical Technology Association also provided input during the initiative. A final report on the SNCI findings is due soon.

DFS has also completed its code compliance and enforcement investigation into the Danvers explosion. The final report will also be issued soon. ♦

CO Permit for Technical Options and Annual Inspection

Pursuant to 527 CMR 31, a permit is required for the installation of one or more of the carbon monoxide technical options, as of December 1, 2006.

A copy of the form FP-7D, the revised carbon monoxide permit to capture technical option H, was sent to local fire departments along with form FP-7E, the annual certificate of inspection for carbon monoxide alarms.

These forms are also available on our web site at www.mass.gov/dfs under OSFM Forms if you require additional copies.

Further assistance is always available through the Office of the State Fire Marshal on this and similar issues. Please contact the Code Compliance and Enforcement Unit at (978) 567-3375 or in Western Mass. (413) 587-3181. ♦

Hazardous Materials Division Participates in Exercise Twin Strike

On August 24, 2007 a full-scale emergency response training exercise, Exercise Twin Strike, was conducted simultaneously at two sites in Worcester and West Boylston. The exercise was designed to assess the ability of first responders and first receivers to respond to an incident requiring multi-jurisdictional collaboration and to familiarize the local first response and receiver agencies with the protocols in place for responding to explosions, a radiological dispersal device (RDD), and a mass casualty incident (MCI).

Over fifty different response organizations and over 250 first responders and first receivers participated in the daylong exercise. Exercise Twin Strike served as the final step of an eight-month exercise series built upon the lessons learned from the tabletop exercise involving a similar scenario conducted in April 2007.

Objectives of the exercise included: testing the surge capabilities of the regional acute care hospitals; activation of the Regional Medical Coordination Center (RMCC); the timeliness and flow of the alert; and activation of the appropriate level of mutual aid assistance from neighboring ambulance response units.

The Worcester portion of the exercise took place at Worcester State Hospital. The scenario at the Worcester site involved the detonation of a radiological dispersal device. This exercise was designed to allow responders from various disciplines to respond and conduct operations in the environment of an incident involving both an explosive and radiological dispersal device.

The West Boylston site involved the detonation of an improvised explosive device and the discovery of a radiological dispersal device.

The Massachusetts Central Region Homeland Security Advisory Council sponsored the exercise. A Depart-



Photo by: Barry Hyvärinen

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Annual Hazardous Materials Conference

On September 13-14, 2007 the Massachusetts Association of Hazardous Materials Technicians (MAHMT) conducted their 16th annual Haz-Mat Training Conference at the Radisson Hotel in Plymouth, MA. It was sponsored by the Massachusetts Association of Hazardous Materials Technicians, the state Department of Fire Services, Hazardous Materials Response Program and the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency.

Over 500 people attended the two-day conference over, including members of the state Department of Fire Services Hazardous Materials Response Teams, the MA National Guard Civil Support Team, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Department of Environmental Protection and members of other city and town response organizations.

The first day featured a keynote presentation by Greg Noll, a veteran of the 2nd MAHMT annual conference in 1993. Mr. Noll is an international expert with over 35 years of experience in HazMat, emergency response and occupational safety and health.

Mr. Noll's presentation on the *Past, Present and Future of Hazardous Materials Emergency Response* discussed the background of hazardous materials response, new equipment developed, current trends, how these items will have an impact on a response system, and how to anticipate and adapt to meet these challenges.

Mr. Noll also gave a workshop on the lessons learned from the Nickel Mines Amish School shooting incident that occurred in Lancaster County, PA. The workshop focused

on the use and the deployment of an incident management team (IMT) and how an IMT can assist in the coordination and management of large-scale emergencies.

Dave Ladd, Director of the state Department of Fire Service's Hazardous Materials Response Program, gave the keynote presentation on the second day of the conference. His presentation on the Hazardous Materials Response Teams activities conducted during the response to the chemical incident in South Hadley and the explosion in Danvers identified the strength and depth of Massachusetts' Hazardous Materials Response Program.

Conference participants further discussed the lessons learned from the response to these large-

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License Status

One of the first checks of any plan or permit application review should be to check the status of any licenses and registrations that are associated with the project at hand. As a plan reviewer and fire prevention officer, you will come across a myriad of licenses and registrations.

We all rely on the fire protection professionals to properly design and install fire protection systems. It is important to verify that the professionals are who they profess to be. In one recent project forwarded to the State Fire Marshal's Office for review, it was discovered that a prominent architect had been sealing ("stamping") drawings with an expired registration for over 20 years.

The three primary agencies involved in the licensure and registration of fire protection professionals are the Department of Fire Services (DFS), the Department of Public Safety (DPS), and the Division of Professional Licensure (DPL).

For sprinklerfitters and fire sprinkler system contractors, the DPS internet site – www.mass.gov/dps - contains a direct link to checking licenses under 'Online Services'. First click on 'License Search' and then 'DPS License Lookup'. Change the 'Maximum number of matches' to 'all matches' so that the search is not arbitrarily cut off. If you select 'all fields' under 'Select the search method', you can search by individual name or license number. The license codes 'SC', 'SJ', and 'SA', stand for fire sprinkler system contractor, journeyman sprinklerfitter, and apprentice sprinklerfitter, respectively. There are no links in the online DPS database to company names. Note that you can search company information at the Secretary of State's internet site - <http://corp.sec.state.ma.us/corp/corps-earch/corpssearchinput.asp>

For electricians (including fire alarm installers), professional engineers, and architects, the DPL internet site – www.mass.gov/dpl - contains a direct link to checking licenses under 'Online Services'. The procedure for

searching these licenses/registrations is straightforward. The DPL website also contains any formal disciplinary action taken against a license holder or registrant back to 1993, but you have to click on an individual's record to pull up the information.

For installers of pre-engineered and engineered fixed fire extinguishing systems (i.e. restaurant hood suppression systems, carbon dioxide extinguishing systems, and clean agent extinguishing systems), you would need to contact DFS at (978) 567-3700 to verify that the information on a *Certificate of Competency* or *Certificate of Registration* is valid.

How to contact an OSFM Fire Protection Engineer: if your jurisdiction contains, or is South of, the Mass Pike - contact Jake Nunnemacher at 978-567-3377 or jacob.nunnemacher@dfs.state.ma.us. For jurisdictions North of the Mass Pike - contact Dana Haagensen at 978-567-3376 or dana.haagensen@dfs.state.ma.us. ♦

Annual HazMat Conference

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scale hazardous materials response operations. Incorporation of the lessons learned will be valuable in improving upon the existing robust capabilities of the Hazardous Materials Response Teams.

The state Department of Fire Services' Command Simulation trailer was used for a training session on a suite of software programs that can be used to plan for and respond to chemical emergencies. Participants used this training tool to enhance their skills at using the CAMEO and LandView modeling software suites. Len Wallace of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency conducted the training. This was also the first time that the computer lab resource was utilized at a MAHMT conference.

Hazardous materials response personnel had the opportunity to see a liquefied natural gas (LNG) tanker first hand. Transgas provided an LNG transport vehicle for both days to augment the classroom presentations with the hands-on opportunity on the LNG tanker.

Larry Trost, a principal member of the technical staff in the National Security Studies Department of the Nuclear Weapons Program of Sandia National Labs, discussed the differences between radiological and nuclear events. His workshop introduced the types of national and international radiological threats, the consequences of those threats and the management of incidents. ♦

Exercise Twin Strike

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Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grant provided the funding for the exercise, and the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission served as the exercise fiduciary agent.

Department of Fire Services personnel participating in Exercise Twin Strike included the Hazardous Materials Response Teams from District 3 and District 6 and the Massachusetts State Police Bomb Squad assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal. ♦

DFS Construction Project Begins

Site Clearing Begins, Sudbury Waterline Completed & Tanks Installed

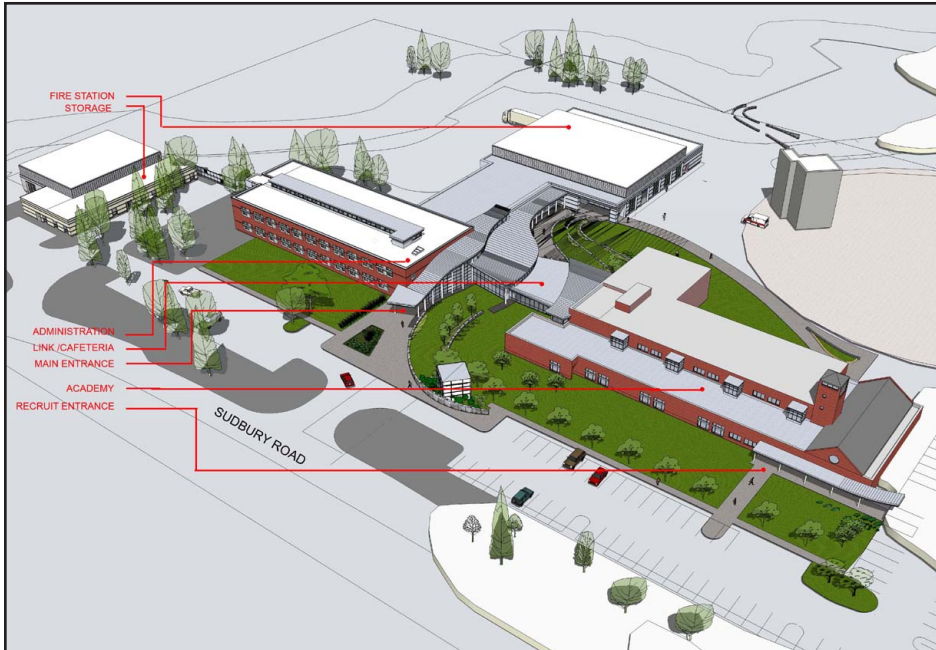
Major site clearing began at the end of October at the Department of Fire Services (DFS) headquarters in Stow, MA. Within one week, trees and earth were removed at both ends of the DFS facility. One newly cleared space can be seen west of the

terline for DFS to the Sudbury Water District was completed in July 2007. The waterline construction along Sudbury Rd. and State Rd. began the last week in May and was completed with the re-paving of the road by July 20, a couple weeks ahead of schedule. This work involved digging

“shutdown” in late June, three septic holding tanks were installed in the MA Firefighting Academy’s (MFA) drill yard next to the training tower. These three tanks (10,000, 16,000 and 20,000 gallons) are part of the new septic system for the DFS construction project that will better house the agency’s training and office space.

Consigli Construction, the general contractor overseeing the DFS construction project, is supervising all of the construction work. C.J. Mabardy performed the installation of the new waterline and septic tanks and J.H. Lynch & Sons is doing the site clearing work. The architect for the DFS construction project is DiMella Shaffer.

As this *All Hands Herald* goes to press, additional construction work for utilities and the septic systems is scheduled to begin for the DFS construction project. Watch for another update and more photos in the next AHH issue. ♦



main entrance. This area with two new access points is where the new DFS warehouse will be located

The other cleared area is on the hill just east of the DFS main building, where the MFA exercise trail used to be located. The new septic system will be located in this area as well as remote parking and an additional access road. Currently, the new access road has been cleared and surplus loam will be stored in this area during construction.

Photo by: DiMella Shaffer



up the road to lay in approximately one and a half miles of new 12" waterline pipe as well as the installation of four hydrants, and two new box culverts in environmentally sensitive areas. The new waterline will allow

DFS to connect to the Sudbury Water District for the agency's potable, or drinking, water. DFS intends to continue using water for training from the White Pond through the Town of Maynard.

Almost simultaneously to the waterline construction and during DFS' summer

MERSA Infections

Continued from page 2

EMS calls and patient interactions, the use of hand washing or the use of an alcohol base substance around the station and after each EMS call, and keeping all wounds covered with bandages until they are completely healed.

It is also encouraged that you visit the following sites for more information on M.R.S.A.

http://www.mass.gov/dph/cdc/antibiotic/antibiotic_resistance_healthcare.htm

<http://www.cdc.gov/Features/MRSAinSchools> ♦

Prior to the site clearing, a new wa-

'New' System Changes as of January 1, 2008

There are some changes in the system, many of which may cause 'Critical' errors that are coming with the latest release of MFIRS v5 on January 1, 2008. Any 'Critical' error in an incident will not allow that incident to be saved in the state database and will have to be corrected and resubmitted, so make sure your software has been updated. We were instrumental in getting some of these changes made, so if you have any suggestions please be sure to pass them along.

The changes that will affect MFIRS users are:

1. *Incident Type* (Basic Module) 100 – *Fire, other*, will require a Fire Module. A 'Critical' error will result if a Fire Module is not present.

2. A new *Actions Taken* (Basic Module) code 87 – *Investigate fire out on arrival* has been added. It should be used for incidents where the fire department responds but the fire has already been extinguished.

3. A 'Critical' error will be generated for any age that is a negative number.

4. A new *Type of Material First Ignited* (Fire Module) code has been added = 28 – *Ethanol*.

5. Removed *Cause of Ignition* code (Fire Module) 0 – *Other*. A 'Critical' error will result if 0 is used.

6. If *Incident Type* (Basic Module) = 112 – *Fire in a structure other than a building*, the *Structure Type* (Structure Fire Module) cannot be 1 – *Enclosed building*, or 2 – *Fixed portable or mobile structure*. A 'Critical' error will result if either of these codes are used.

7. If *Property Use* (Basic Module) = 464 – *Barracks, dormitory*, then the *Mixed Use Property* (Basic Module) field is required to be completed. A 'Critical' error will result this condition is not met.

8. A new *Factors Contributing to Release* (HazMat Module) code has been added = 49 – *Criminal Activity*.

9. The description for *Building Status* (Structure Fire Module) code = 2 – *Occupied & operating* has been changed to *In normal use* – Includes properties that are closed or unoccupied for a short period of time, such as a business closed for the weekend or a house with no one at home.

10. A new *Equipment Involved in Ignition* (Fire Module) code has been added = 877 – *Novelty lighter*.

11. If *Arrival Time* (Basic Module) is greater than 20 minutes than the *Alarm Time* (Basic Module) than a 'Warning' error will be generated. ♦

2007 Fire Data

Please check to see if your department has sent in all the MFIRS reports to date. The Fire Data Unit should have all your reports from January through December. You should be sending them in on a monthly basis. You can contact the Fire Data Unit to confirm what reports have been received.

Need for Updated Reports

Departments need to submit updated MFIRS reports once investigators have completed their investigations. The MFIRS report needs to be updated and then resubmitted when anything new is discovered, or an investigation is completed, by whom-ever department policy authorizes to do so - the fire investigator, the chief, deputy chief, or officer in command. This needs to be done even if your fire investigators are using a system other than MFIRS for their investigative reports. If you are working with outside investigators such as troopers from the OSFM's Fire Investigation Unit, it is your responsibility to contact them and inquire as to their results and update your MFIRS report accordingly. This is especially true for fatal or large loss fires.

Fatal or Large Loss Fires

If you have a fire or explosion with a **fatality** or **large loss (>\$1,000,000)**, please forward a paper copy of the MFIRS report with a completed Remarks section to Derryl Dion within two business days. The report should include the Basic, Fire, Civilian Fire &/or Fire Service Casualty Module(s), and Structure Fire Module (needed for all structure fires). This most likely will be a preliminary report and you can file the complete

MFIRS V5 Coding

Building Status Vacant vs. Non-Vacant

There seems to be some confusion as to what this field and its codes represent. The Building Status field defines the operational status of the building involved in the fire. Two of the codes for this field are: *Vacant & Secured* and *Vacant & Unsecured*. A vacant building is one that is not occupied at any time, not just at the time of the fire. It is usually an abandoned building or a building that does not have any occupants or businesses residing in it.

It does not include buildings such as storage units, and motor vehicle garages, or businesses after business hours with no one there. The code *In Normal Use* should be used for these scenarios. The code *Idle Not Routinely Used* should be used for seasonal properties and those that are used on a 'somewhat' regular basis (e.g. snack stands or ticket booths at playgrounds or athletic fields) when they are not occupied and operating. ♦

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

2007 Fire Data

Continued from page 16

report at a later date, unless otherwise noted. Every effort should be made to insure that these reports are as possible at the end of your investigation.

If one of the state troopers from OSFM's Fire Investigation Unit (FIU) was involved with the investigation, please contact them to see what they are reporting for conclusions in their report. FIU reports are separate from your MFIRS reports, and both reports should reflect the same conclusions.

Training

If a department needs more training on MFIRS v5 and can guarantee 15 students, please contact me to set up an MFIRS v5 class. It is a 4-hour MFA class that comes with 4 OEMS credits and enrollment must be open to other departments.

Electronic Reporting

The email address to send your electronic MFIRS reports to is: MFIRS.Report@state.ma.us.

One or two days after your first submission via email please call Derryl Dion at (978) 567-3382 to confirm its receipt. Departments that are reporting electronically should be submitting their incidents on a monthly basis. If a department is having trouble with its computer systems, that department should notify the Fire Data Unit as soon as possible; and if the problem persists, paper copies should be forwarded to DFS to be entered into the system here.

Assistance

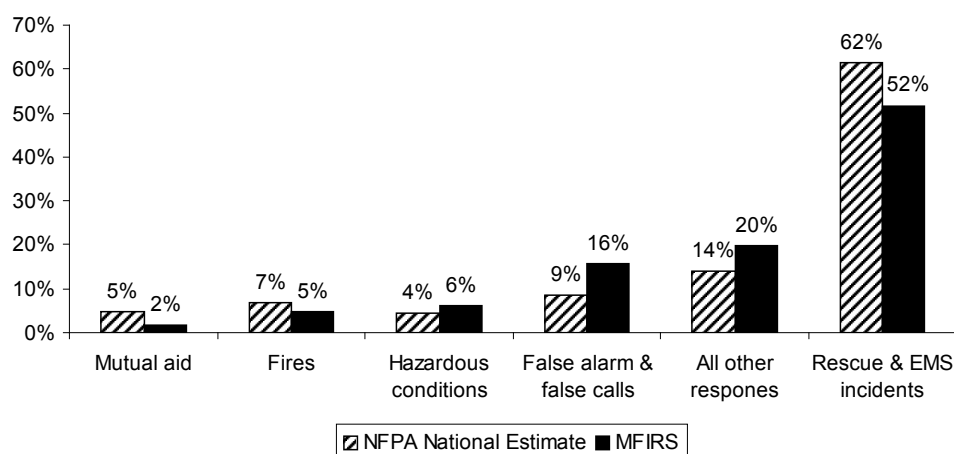
Please contact Derryl Dion, Research Analyst/MFIRS Manager at (978) 567-3382 or Derryl.Dion@state.ma.us with any questions regarding MFIRS or to conduct fire data or histories research. ♦

Fire Facts

In 2006, a little more than half, 52%, of all incidents reported to MFIRS were EMS or rescue type calls. Sixteen percent (16%) were false alarms, 5% were fires, 6% were hazardous condition calls, 2% were mutual aid given calls, and the remaining 20% were all other responses combined. Compared to

the results of the NFPA's 2006 *Fire Loss in the U.S.*, Massachusetts fire departments responded to a lower percentage of rescue or EMS incidents, fires and mutual aid calls, and a higher percentage of false alarms, hazardous condition calls and other types of responses than fire departments nationally. ♦

MA vs NFPA National Estimate
2006 Incidents

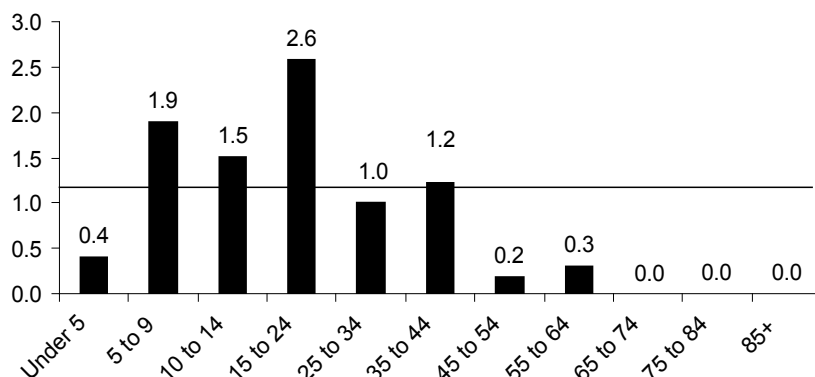


M-BIRS Data on Gasoline Burns

In 2006, gasoline was involved in 11% of the burn injuries reported to the Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System (M-BIRS). All burns of 5% or more of the body surface area must be reported to M-BIRS. One-third of the gasoline-related burn victims were between the ages of 15 and 24. Young adults in this age group were nearly three times more likely to be burned while handling gasoline. Historically people in the age group 10-14 years old have been the most at risk for these types of injuries.

While they were not the most at risk in 2006, they were still 1.5 times more likely to receive a gasoline burn injury. For a full copy of the 2006 *Annual Report of the Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System*, contact the Fire Data and Public Education Unit at 978 567 3382 or go online at www.mass.gov/dfs and look for *Fire Statistics*. ♦

Risk Factors for Gasoline Burns



PUBLIC EDUCATION

13th Annual MA Fire & Life Safety Education Conference

Over 250 teachers, nurses, firefighters and injury prevention experts gathered at the Mansfield Holiday Inn in September for two days of training and skill development in 30 workshops and four general sessions presented by 42 speakers. The conference offered core workshops for new fire and life safety educators, workshops on new ideas, programs and teaching techniques to keep all life safety educators current, and workshops to continue to challenge and develop the skills of more experienced life safety educators.

Lt. Neil Hawley 2007 Educator of the Year

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan presented the 2007 Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year Award to Springfield Fire Lt. Neil Hawley on September 26, 2007. He was recognized for his wide-range of fire and life safety education programs, the fact that he has tirelessly spent his whole career making his community safer through education, his unrelenting enthusiasm for the work, both on and off the clock, and his ability to mentor other fire and life safety educators in the region. Seven finalists were also honored: Dr. Christine McGrath Superintendent of Schools Tewksbury Public Schools; Lt. William McCarthy, North Andover Fire Department; FF. Oona Aldrich, Harvard Fire Department; FF/EMT Bonnie Lopez, Upton Fire Department; Captain Barry Galvin, North Reading Fire Department; FPO Michael Swain, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Environmental Health and Safety Office; Lt. Daniel Hurley Jr, Wilmington Fire Department.

Sondra Senn Gave Keynote Address

Sondra Senn, Administrator for the Public Fire Education and Data Management Section of the South Carolina Office of the State Fire Marshal delivered the keynote address,

Building a Fire Safe Future One Brick at a Time: Don't give up! The story of South Carolina's amazing accomplishment of cutting the high number of fire deaths in half in just three years and keeping them down was inspirational.

Curriculum Planning Guidebook V.3 Released

Version 3 of the *Massachusetts Curriculum Planning Guidebook* was released at the conference. This



Photo by: Derryl Dion

Chief Cassinelli, Lt. Hawley, Stephen Coan

guidebook walks fire and life safety educators through the process of putting together their programs using the IFSTA steps of Identification, Selection, Design, Implementation and Evaluation and lays out the learning objectives of each key fire and life safety behavior by age group. In addition, the Resource section has been updated and reorganized into a more user-friendly format. The guidebook is used in the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's five-day course *Public Fire and Life Safety Educator* and is essential for Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) Program educators. ♦

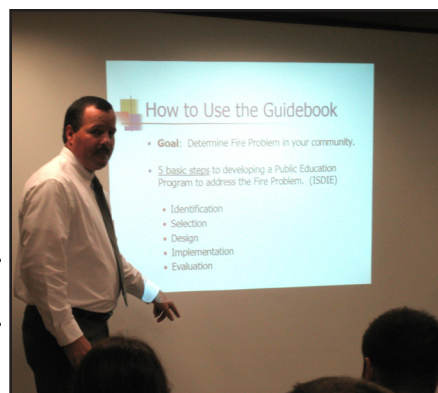


Photo by: Derryl Dion

Ret. Chief Charlie Johnson

Burn Awareness Week, Feb. 3-9, 2008

Shriners Hospitals for Children are the sponsors of Burn Awareness Week and have announced the theme for 2008 – Preventing Gasoline Burn Injuries. Reckless use and improper storage of gasoline by adults leads to thousands of young children being burned every year. Video documentation of gasoline being misused and played with by adolescents is prevalent on the Internet. Fires caused by gasoline are a major factor in burn injuries. According to the Consumer Products Safety Commission, in one year approximately 1,270 children under age five were treated in emergency rooms for injuries resulting from the misuse of gasoline and improperly secured gasoline cans. “Twins” and teens ages 10-14 years old are four times more likely to get in trouble with gasoline. For this age group, the campaign uses the personal stories of gasoline burn survivors to teach important lessons about how to avoid a physically and emotionally scarring burn injury.

In advance of Burn Awareness Week, Shriners Hospitals for Children is making free resources available to educators, fire professionals, medical professionals, parents, caregivers and the media through its Web site www.burnawarenessweek.org.

The American Burn Association also has great resources for educators at www.ameriburn.org/preventionEdRes.php.

The Department of Fire Services also has information and an educational pamphlet at www.mass.gov/dfs click on *Fire Safety Topics*. ♦

Open Burning Season Starts January 15

In communities where open burning is allowed, the season runs from January 15 to May 1. The local fire warden, who is often also the local fire chief, must issue a permit if weather conditions make it safe to do so. Unfortunately many people wait until last the minute, and burn in April when the ground is bare and dry and atmospheric conditions tend to be unpredictable and often windy. As a result, April has historically been the worst month for brush or wildland fires in Massachusetts. The Department of Fire Services has a *FireFactors* on Open Burning that can be handed out (or plagiarized) to permit applicants to help review the rules and regulations to help conduct open burning safely. It can be found online at www.mass.gov/dfs click on *Fire Safety Topics* or by calling the Fire Data and Public Education Unit at 978/567-3380. ♦



Ice Safety in English & Spanish

After several Lawrence boys fell through ice on the Merrimack River, the Lawrence Fire Department and the Department of Fire Services created a series of pamphlets on ice safety. One is the traditional *FireFactors* format – a one page two-sided information sheet. The other format is a tri-fold pamphlet, which is more inviting to some people. Both the *Ice Safety FireFactor* and the *Ice Safety pamphlet* are available in English and Spanish. However, we have been reminded that the only safe ice is in a rink, so we should change the titles to *The Dangers of Ice*. ♦

Senior Fire Officer Forum

This year the Department of Fire Services is proud to again present the Senior Fire Officer Forum, an educational series to develop leadership and command skills in the fire service. The Senior Fire Officer Forum includes six seminars for senior fire officials presented by nationally known experts starting November 2007 and running through May 2008.

Time: All of the forum presentations will be held from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Fee: All of the seminars require pre-registration whether lunch is requested or not.

Locations and Directions: Most of the seminars will be held at the Devens Common Center, 31 Andrews Parkway, Devens, Massachusetts. Directions, may be found at www.DevensCommonCenter.com

Registration Required: Register online at www.mass.gov/dfs/mfa or fax a MFA registration form to (978) 567- 3229. Include lunch request with registration 7 days in advance.

Thurs., Jan. 10, 2008.. 1000-1500

Life & Death in the Fast Lane

Course # 200-039-671A

Speaker:

Chief Dennis Rubin,
Washington DC FD

Location: Devens Common Center
www.DevensCommonCenter.com

Lunch: *Deli Lunch Buffet (pre-registration required)* Cost: \$16.00

Thurs., Feb. 14, 2008.. 1000-1500

Battlefield to the Street - Understanding the Returning Public Safety Veteran

Course # 200-039-672A

Speaker:

Hayden Duggan, Ed.D.
Instructor ICISF

Location: Devens Common Center
www.DevensCommonCenter.com

Lunch: *Deli Lunch Buffet (pre-registration required)* Cost: \$16.00

Thurs., Mar. 13, 2008. 1000-1500

Taking the Mystery Out of Foam, Ethanol, & Biofuels

Course # 200-039-673A

Speaker:

James Cottrell, Cottrell Associates, Inc., National Foam Eastern US Factory Agent

Location: Devens Common Center
www.DevensCommonCenter.com

Lunch: *Deli Lunch Buffet (pre-registration required)* Cost: \$16.00

Thurs., April 10, 2008 1000-1500

Preventing Command Dysfunction

Course # 200-039-674A

Speaker:

Chief I. David Daniels,
Renton, WA FD

Location: Devens Common Center
www.DevensCommonCenter.com

Lunch: *Deli Lunch Buffet (pre-registration required)* Cost: \$16.00

Thurs., May 8, 2008 ... 1000-1500

Realtime Rescue

Course # 200-039-675A

Speaker:

Chief Fred LaFemina,
Battalion Commander, FDNY

Location: Devens Common Center
www.DevensCommonCenter.com

Lunch: *Deli Lunch Buffet (pre-registration required)* Cost: \$16.00 ♦

Sprinklers in Nightclubs

Continued From page 1

with guidance as they carry out enforcement activities regarding this law. Fire chiefs have several options of actions that may be taken for those establishments that have not yet complied with the orders to install the sprinkler systems. Fire chiefs can review the original determination to see if the order is still applicable as there may have been a change of use or capacity limit, or the Automatic Sprinkler Appeals Board may have rendered a decision that may justify a change or modification of the original determination. If installation is incomplete, fire chiefs may enter into discussions about the status of the installation of sprinklers and the possibility of granting a reasonable extension (not to exceed one year) in accordance with the statutory extension provisions (if applicable). Fire chiefs can enforce their order by initiating court action in the appropriate court. Chiefs should follow the procedures as you would for any violation of an order. Additional options may include: (a) as part of the case disposition request that the court revoke the occupancy certificate pending sprinkler installation or (b) have the court render a court monitored extension arrangement. The real teeth in the law may come when the annual liquor license is up for renewal. The fire chief

may refuse to co-sign the annual inspection certificate necessary as a condition to liquor license renewal. It is logical that the failure to install the ordered sprinkler system is contrary to the ability to "attest to the safety of the building" (see MGL c. 10, s. 74. variation options). The law allows the issuance of a temporary certificate with terms and conditions, however.

For cases that have pending appeals before the Sprinkler Appeals Board, it should be noted that, in general, the filing of an appeal "stays" or prevents any further enforcement pending the results of an appeal (see MGL c. 6, s. 201). However, such a stay is not without limits. Section 201 allows the head of the fire department to present evidence to the board that a "stay" would involve imminent peril of life or property. Accordingly, if the fire chief believes that this "imminent peril" exists, the chief may, by a special motion to the appeals board, request that the "stay" be lifted.

For buildings that fire chiefs believe are subject to the law, but no order has been issued, an order should be issued as soon as possible. It should be noted that although the statute gives enforcement powers

to the head of the fire department, it does not contain specific language requiring orders to be issued by the fire chief or issued within a certain time period. In short, "it is better late than never". In such "late" situations, chiefs should use their best judgment in placing time limits to comply. Additionally, even if the order is issued late, the appellant still has 45 days to file an appeal to the Automatic Sprinkler Appeals Board.

Sprinklers Can Be Required for Future Overcrowding Violations

Any owner of a business designed or used for occupancy as a nightclub, dance hall, discotheque, bar or for similar entertainment purposes, not originally required to install automatic sprinklers under the MA Fire Safety Act who is subsequently cited for overcrowding can also be required to install sprinklers within one year. If the business violates the maximum capacity for such building or structure, two or more times during a 12-month period, or if the business violates the maximum capacity of such building or structure by a number greater than 1/2 of such maximum capacity they can be ordered to install fire sprinklers within one year. ♦

DFS Employees Recognized

The Commonwealth annually recognizes excellence in its employees through the Performance Recognition Program. DFS employees who demonstrate exemplary work performance were awarded the Commonwealth Citation for Outstanding Performance, which was given at a Boston ceremony on October 5, 2007 and attended by Governor Deval Patrick. These employees were also recognized at the Department of Fire Services annual service award presentation on October 2, 2007.

Honored this year were: Pavel Gorelik, Derryl Dion, and Usha Patel, members of the Fire Data

Unit; Joanne Caruso from Information Technology; Maryann Lara, from Fiscal Affairs and Judy Lamb, facili-

tator for the MFA/DPH joint training programs. ♦



left-right: Judy Lamb, Joanne Caruso, Maryann Lara, Pavel Gorelik, Usha Patel, Derryl Dion

Photo by: Donna Nelson

LICENSING EXAMS

Licenses

The Office of the State Fire Marshal issues licenses to people and companies engaged in fireworks, blasting, explosives, cannon and mortar firing, special effects, special hazard systems and portable fire extinguishers. Information on applications and exam dates to obtain new licenses or to renew existing licenses may be obtained by calling (978) 567-3700. Examinations for licenses are held quarterly. Filing deadlines, exam locations, dates and times can be found online at: http://www.mass.gov/dfs/osfm/license_exams.htm.

All licensing exams will be given at the Department of Fire Services, Stow campus, and at the western Massachusetts office of the Department of Fire Services, One Prince Street, Northampton. All exams begin at 9 a.m. in the dates scheduled ♦

2008 Exam Schedule

Examination	Deadline Date	Examination Date
Special Effects Blasting	February 8, 2008 May 2, 2008	February 20, 2008 May 14, 2008
Fire Extinguishers	January 11, 2008 April 18, 2008	January 24, 2008 April 30, 2008

More dates to be announced in March 2008.

Status Report of Compliance and Enforcement Actions

The following is a status report of recent compliance and enforcement actions taken by the Office of the State Fire Marshal against individuals or companies for violations of MGL Chap. 148 and 527 CMR. The status of the action is provided and notation is made regarding the effective date of the action. While other actions may be pending, only those individuals or companies who have had administrative hearings with de-

cisions rendered will be documented in this space.

Should there be any question regarding the status of any license or certificate, please call the Office of the State Fire Marshal at any time for verification. The Licensing Desk can be reached at (978) 567-3700. ♦

Compliance and Enforcement Actions By The Department of Fire Services

Name	Action Taken	Terms	Ends
Blasting Certificate of Competency			
David J. Farr	60-day suspension	9/5/2007 - 11/14/2007, w/ 14 days to serve	9/19/2007
Brian D. Keefe Jr	1-year suspension	12/4/2007 - 11/19/2008 6 months to serve	5/19/2008
Fire Equipment Certificate of Competency			
James Tecce	Permanent Revocation	Prohibited from ever again holding a business reg. of any kind from DFS	
David M. O'Neill	5-year suspension	1 yr. to serve, retest, 4 yrs. probation	5/23/2008 5/12/2012
Fire Equipment Certificate of Registration			
Intra-City Supply Co.	5-year suspension	1 yr. to serve, 4 yrs. probation	5/23/2008 5/12/2012

GRADUATIONS

Recruit Graduations

Recruit Class #177

Members of the 177th Recruit Firefighter Training Class graduated in a ceremony on Friday, September 28, 2007 at 3:30 p.m. The guest speaker was Boston Fire Commissioner Roderick J. Fraser.

The 69 graduates, seven women and 62 men, represent the 39 departments of: Abington, Acton, Amherst, Arlington, Avon, Bedford, Beverly, Cohasset, Dracut, Duxbury, Easthampton, Falmouth, Franklin, Gloucester, Hingham, Holyoke, Kingston, Lakeville, Leominster, Littleton, Ludlow, Malden, Mansfield, Marblehead, Marlborough, Mashpee, Maynard, Natick, Needham, North Andover, Oxford, Plymouth, Stoneham, Sturbridge, Watertown, Westborough, Woburn, Wrentham and Yarmouth.

Recruit Class #178

Members of the 178th Recruit Firefighter Training Class graduated in a ceremony on Friday, December 21, 2007 at 3:30 p.m.

The 73 graduates, two women and 71 men, represent the 45 departments of: Attleboro, Bellingham, Billerica, Braintree, Cambridge, Centerville-Osterville, Dedham, Dennis, Easthampton, Easton, Everett, Fairhaven, Falmouth, Gloucester, Greenfield, Holyoke, Hudson, Lexington, Lincoln, Lowell, Marblehead, Marshfield, Melrose, Methuen, Middleborough, Milford, Nantucket, Needham, North Reading, Northampton, Plymouth, Raynham, Reading, Salem, Scituate, Seekonk, Shrewsbury, Southborough, Wakefield, Watertown, West Springfield, Weston, Wilmington, Winthrop, and Yarmouth.

Both graduations took place at the Nashoba Regional High School, Bolton, MA. ♦



Recruit Class 177

Photo by: Barry Hyvarinen



Recruit Class 178

Photo by: Barry Hyvarinen

Chief Fire Officer Class

On December 13, 2007, 44 fire service personnel from 41 communities graduated from the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's thirteen-week Chief Fire Officer Management Training Program at the University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute in Shrewsbury.

The curriculum covers a spectrum of topics considered essential for effective management and includes human resource management, group dynamics, leadership and legal issues, governmental and organization structures, information management, customer-focused strategic planning, budgets, commu-

nity awareness and public relations, and labor relations.

Fire officers from the following fire departments graduated in the afternoon ceremony: Avon, Ayer, Barnstable, Bellingham, Belmont, Bourne, Bridgewater, Burlington, Cambridge, Carver, Charlton, Danvers, Dartmouth District #1, Devens, Duxbury, Easthampton, Framingham, Franklin, Granby, Lakeville, Littleton, Lynn, MassPort, Methuen, Milton, Needham, New Bedford, Northampton, Norton, Oxford, Palmer, Pittsfield, Revere, Shrewsbury, Stoughton, Tisbury, Topsfield, Ware, West Newbury, West Springfield, and Yarmouth. ♦